

REMARKS / DISCUSSION OF ISSUES

Claims 1-17 are pending in the application.

The claims in general are amended for one or more non-statutory reasons, for example to correct one or more informalities or obvious errors, remove figure label number(s), remove unnecessary limitations and multiple dependencies, and/or replace European claim phraseology with U.S. claim language having the same meaning. The claims are not believed to be narrowed in scope and no new matter is added.

Claim 18 is canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of its subject matter, because it appears to be in improper form, i.e., it appears to require dependence from more than one claim at the same time. Applicant reserves the right to prosecute the subject matter of canceled claim 18 in a divisional or other continuing application.

Applicant(s) respectfully request(s) the Examiner to acknowledge the claim for foreign priority and receipt of any certified copies of priority document(s) provided earlier or received from the International Bureau.

The Office action restricts the invention to one of the following groups of claims:

- I. Claims 1-15, drawn to a method; and
- II. Claims 16-18, drawn to a method.

In response, applicant(s) provisionally elect(s), with traverse, to prosecute claim(s) 1-15, identified as species I, along with any newly added claims drawn to the same species. Applicant(s) reserve(s) the right to prosecute the subject matter of the nonelected claim(s) in a divisional or other continuing application.

Applicants' traversal is based at least on the fact that the device and the method for making it, regardless of whether or not they should be considered separate inventions, are so closely related that the search and examination of the entire application can be made without serious burden.

**MPEP § 803 - Restriction - When Proper**

... If the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions.

Withdrawal of the restriction requirement and examination of the application on its merits are now respectfully requested. If any points remain in issue that may best be resolved through a personal or telephonic interview, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

/Eric M. Bram/

Eric M. Bram  
Reg. 37,285  
Att'y for Applicant(s)  
Philips Intellectual Property  
& Standards

P.O. Box 3001  
Briarcliff Manor, NY 10510-8001  
Phone: (914) 333-9635  
Fax: (914) 332-0615